

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: May 16, 2002

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on May 10, 2002

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Completion of Removal Action, Denton Avenue Site, Hamtramck, Michigan

On April 5, 2002, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) removal action was completed at the Denton Avenue site in Hamtramck, Michigan. The Denton Avenue site was a former industrial smelting facility containing various arsenic, cadmium, and lead-contaminated wastes in tanks, drums, small containers and backyard soils. The Wayne County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and the City of Hamtramck requested U.S. EPA assistance in removing the wastes from the facility in order to aid the redevelopment of the abandoned property. Removal activities undertaken in the Fall of 2001 included the off-site disposal of over 300 drums and 200 laboratory containers from the interior of the facility. In addition, large quantities of smelting wastes were removed from all furnace and floor surfaces. Activities undertaken in the Spring of 2002 included the excavation and off-site disposal of more than 2,100 tons of lead-contaminated soils from the facility's backyard. Excavated areas were backfilled and graded appropriately. The removal actions were closely coordinated with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Wayne County, and the City of Hamtramck.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

On-going Time Critical Removal Activities, Alpha Cast Foundry Site, Palmyra, Wisconsin

On May 7, 2002, the U.S. EPA Field Services Section (FSS) assisted the U.S. EPA Emergency Response Branch (ERB) in on-going time-critical removal activities at the Alpha Cast Foundry site in Palmyra, Wisconsin. ERB is removing drummed wastes and foundry wastes contaminated with chlorinated solvents and other volatile organic compounds from an onsite disposal area. The FSS surveyed the site with a Geonics High-Sensitivity Metal Detector, commonly known as an EM61, and a Geometrics cesium magnetometer to determine possible locations of buried drums and tanks. A remote controlled helicopter was used to obtain aerial photographs of the site. The FSS's skid loader-mounted Geoprobe was used to collect groundwater samples from a difficult to reach wooded area near the onsite disposal area. The groundwater results and other environmental data will be forwarded to the Wisconsin Department of Health for preparation of a site health consultation.

Contacts: Mark Vendl (312-886-0405)
Jim Ursic (312-353-1526)
Steve Peterson (312-353-1526)
Pam Gallichio (312-886-0386)

Issuance of Preliminary Close Out Report, Ott/Story/Cordova Superfund Site, Muskegon, Michigan

On May 1, 2002, U.S. EPA signed the Superfund Preliminary Close Out Report for the Ott/Story/Cordova Superfund site, located in Muskegon, Michigan. The Operable Unit (O.U.) #1 and #2 remedies required installation of groundwater extraction wells and construction of a facility to intercept and treat contaminated groundwater. These systems were declared operational and functional on August 9, 2000. The remedy for O.U. #3 required approximately 4,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil to be excavated and replaced with clean soil. On March 21, 2002, U.S. EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) inspected the O.U. #3 areas and determined that construction requirements for the O.U. #3 remedy had been successfully completed. U.S. EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) jointly continues the groundwater Long Term Response Action for O.U. #1 and #2, and MDEQ continues the operation and maintenance of O.U. #3 areas. After very active legal and enforcement activity for many years, this project continues to proceed as a Fund-lead project. Expenditures for this project total approximately \$53 million, with the potential for a total project net present worth to reach a range between \$85 and \$100 million. Five year reviews will be conducted at the

site, including assessments of remedy effectiveness and appropriate remedial goals.

Contact: John Fagiolo (312-886-0800)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Federal Employee of the Year Results, Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois

On May 9, 2002, William E. Muno, Director, Superfund Division, attended the Federal Employee of the Year luncheon. I am very happy to report that 3 Superfund Division employees were recognized. Both Betty Lavis and Rick Karl ended up being finalists in their respective categories. Also, the Critical Ecosystems Team won in its category. Brenda Jones was included in the Critical Ecosystems Team nomination. Please join me in congratulating the accomplishments of these 3 Superfund employees.

Contact: William E. Muno (312-353-9773)

Administrative Complaint Filed Against Norquick Distributing Company, Inc., Canton, Wayne County, Michigan

On May 3, 2002, the U.S. EPA filed an Administrative Complaint against Norquick Distributing Company, Inc., Canton, Michigan. The Complaint alleges violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Sections 304 and 312, and the Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 112(r). On January 12, 2000, at 7:00 a.m., the facility had a 3,900 pound release of anhydrous ammonia. Anhydrous ammonia is a hazardous substance under CERCLA and an extremely hazardous substance with a reportable quantity of 100 pounds. Norquick Distributing Company, Inc., called the National Response Center on January 12, 2000, at 11:44 a.m. The company never called the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) or the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Additionally, they never provided the written follow-up report to the SERC or the LEPC.

Norquick Distributing Company, Inc. has 13,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia in their refrigeration system. The minimum threshold for reporting under EPCRA Section 312 is 500 pounds. They never submitted the Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory form to the SERC, the LEPC, or the local fire department with jurisdiction over the facility for calendar

years 1997-1999. These forms are due each March 1. The threshold quantity for submitting a Risk Management Plan under CAA Section 112 is 10,000 pounds. They failed to submit the risk management plan on or before the June 21, 1999, deadline. The proposed penalty in the complaint is \$341,265.20. Norquick Distributing Company, Inc. will have 30 days to respond to the Complaint.

Contacts: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)
Robert Mayhugh (312-886-5929)

Settlement Reached, Akron Noveon, f/k/a/ B.F. Goodrich Company, Akron, Summit County, Ohio

On May 7, 2002, the U.S. EPA filed a Consent Agreement and Final Order resolving the alleged violation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103. On August 10, 2001, the U.S. EPA filed an Administrative Complaint against B.F. Goodrich Company, Akron, Ohio. On January 12, 2000, at 8:42 a.m., the facility had a 1,125 pound release of 1,3-Butadiene a hazardous substance under CERCLA with a reportable quantity of 10 pounds. This release was more than 112 times the reportable quantity. B.F. Goodrich Company called the National Response Center on January 12, 2000, at 11:57 a.m. This notification was made more than three hours after the person in charge was aware of the release. The proposed penalty in the complaint is \$17,532.10. The settlement penalty is \$15,469.50 to the Superfund account. Akron Noveon, f/k/a/ B.F. Goodrich Company will have 30 days to make the cash penalty payment.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

Emergency Response, Oil Spill Response, Markham, Illinois

On May 8, 2002, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Charlie Brasher responded to the report of an oil spill in Markham, Illinois. The Markham Police Department reported the spill on May 7 as 200 gallons of oil on a gravel road that spread to a low area in a residential area, and requested U.S. EPA assistance. OSC Charlie Brasher was met at the site by the Markham Fire Chief and Building Commissioner Thaddeus Goodlow. Although the area was wet, no oil spill or sheen was visible, which may have been due to heavy rain during the night. It was determined that no emergency response actions could be taken.

It was noted that the residential lawn behind the reported spill area had a long, three foot wide, L shaped section (100' x 40') of dead grass. Mr. Goodlow said that the problem of the dead grass had started about one month earlier during a

period of heavy rains. He suspected illegal dumping activity and asked if it could be sampled area to determine if it was contaminated. The previous illegal dumping may have involved material other

than oil. The situation is being assessed for possible further action.

Contact: Charlie Brasher (312-886-7196)

Consent Decree Lodged Resolving 33-Count Multimedia Complaint Against Premcor Refining Group (a/k/a Clark Marketing and Refining), Blue Island, Illinois

On April 1, 2002, a Consent Decree was lodged in the Northern District of Illinois against Premcor Refinery Group (formerly known as Clark Marketing and Refinery). It resolves a 33-count complaint under five Federal statutes filed in 1998 for violations at Premcor's Refinery in Blue Island, Illinois. The proposed consent decree requires Premcor to pay a civil penalty of \$6.25 million to resolve the allegations set forth in the State and Federal complaint.

The Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program conducted several inspections for compliance with the SPCC regulations, at the Blue Island Refinery. The inspections revealed numerous and serious violations of 40 CFR 112 including the discharge of oil into navigable waters, failure to submit spill notifications, and various deficiencies in the facility's SPCC plan. The refinery ceased operations in early 2000, leaving a bulk oil storage facility as the only on-going operation. The decree requires Premcor to revise its SPCC plan and make changes to the remaining bulk storage facility to correct the specified deficiencies. The public comment period ends on May 10, 2002. Premcor has 60 days after the close of the public comment period to submit a revised SPCC plan to the Oil Planning and Response Section.

Contacts: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)
Bob McCoy (312-886-0185)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Superfund Division Staff Participates in Earth Day Activities, Local Elementary Schools, Portage, Indiana & Calumet City, Illinois

On April 5 - April 19, 2002, Tom Bloom and Keith Lesniak of

the Superfund Division attended Earth Day celebrations and presented information about municipal solid waste, household hazardous waste, the three Rs (reduce, reuse, and recycle), landfills and emergency response levels of protection. The two part presentation was given to approximately 100 elementary school students at the Crisman Elementary School in Portage, Indiana, and 490 elementary school students at Wentworth Intermediate School in Calumet City, Illinois. The students were given activity books titled Adventures of the Garbage Gremlin, The Superfund Team and Mother Mouse, and Captain Decon - Region 5 Emergency Response. Tom Bloom and Keith Lesniak handed out earth day magnets, book markers and wildflower seeds. Many interesting questions were asked about landfills, recycling, and emergency response. Hand written thank you notes from the students were bound and sent to Tom Bloom and Keith Lesniak.

Contacts: Tom Bloom (312-886-1967)
Keith Lesniak (312-886-7189)

Marathon Ashland Petroleum, Emergency Response Table Top Exercise, Marietta, Ohio

On May 8, 2002, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jim Augustyn participated as a player in the Marathon Ashland Petroleum (MAP) Emergency Response Table Top Exercise. OSC Jim Augustyn played the role of Federal On-Scene Coordinator for the exercise. The exercise involved a simulated worst case discharge of gasoline from a 2 million gallon storage tank impacting the Ohio River. The objectives of the exercise was to demonstrate the company's Spill Management Team internal and external notification processes, confirm roles and responsibilities of MAP personnel, increase awareness of emergency response issues, provide better understanding of the Incident Command System (ICS), and enhance working relationships between MAP personnel and participating local, State and Federal agencies.

Contact: Jim Augustyn (440-250-1742)

St. Clair Shores Polychlorinated Biphenyl Investigation, St. Clair Shores, Michigan

On May 6, 2002, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jim Augustyn attended a St. Clair Shores City Council Meeting. OSC Jim Augustyn provided a brief update on the status of the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) investigation to the Mayor and Members of the City Council. Progress of the investigation was discussed as well as a proposed time line for the release of the Assessment Report. OSC Jim Augustyn informed the City officials that the data validation process was approximately

50% complete and that the Assessment Report would most likely be available by the end of July. In addition, OSC Jim Augustyn informed the city officials that the U.S. EPA was working with City, County, and State agencies to coordinate a cleanup strategy and that a limited removal action would most likely take place later in the Summer to early Fall.

Contact: Jim Augustyn (440-250-1742)

Meeting, Red Lake Brownfields Project, Bemidji, Minnesota

On April 30, 2002, Jane Neumann met with staff from the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians in Bemidji, Minnesota, to discuss work plans for the next phase of their brownfields assessment project. The Tribal staff reported that they have selected E4 Partners of Minneapolis to conduct a survey and two community meetings to generate ideas for reuse of the former sawmill site and adjacent parcels. The outcome of that community outreach process this Summer will shape the remaining assessment work.

Contact: Jane Neumann (312-353-0123)

Leech Lake Band Superfund Grants, Cass Lake, Minnesota

On May 1 and 2, 2002, Superfund Division and Resource Management Division staff met with staff and elected Tribal leaders of the Leech Lake Band in Cass Lake, Minnesota, to provide onsite technical assistance pertaining to the Leech Lake Band's finance and accounting systems. The reviewers determined that the Leech Lake Band had begun properly drawing down funds from the two grants in the past two months, demonstrating that they now were familiar with those procedures. Discussions about personnel charging and timekeeping systems lead to a decision by the Leech Lake Band to decline to charge certain past personnel costs to the grants and to plan to request a revision to the work plans to reflect that change. A new Tribal staff person has been assigned to track charges for all Environmental Protection Agency grants, which should improve the Leech Lake Band's management of its grant responsibilities.

Contact: Jane Neumann (312-353-0123)

2002 River Rouge Water Festival, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn, Michigan

On May 2, 2002, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Mark Durno and Michelle Jaster participated in the 2002 River Rouge Water

Festival held at the University of Michigan campus in Dearborn, Michigan. The annual one-day educational event is the largest children's water festival in Michigan. This year, over 2,700 students from 55 elementary schools in the River Rouge watershed communities attended the festival to learn more about the River Rouge and various environmental programs. OSCs Mark Durno and Michelle Jaster presented an overview of U.S. EPA's emergency response work, and included the opportunity for children from each class to "dress out" in personal protective clothing. In addition, the recent oil spill on the Rouge River was discussed and the OSCs demonstrated how absorbents are used to collect oil from waterways. Finally, a brief overview of the dangers of

mercury was discussed. Children from 8 different schools attended the U.S. EPA's presentation throughout the day.

Contacts: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)
Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

Meeting, Hemisphere Corporation, Painesville, Ohio

On April 30, 2002, Brooke Furio and Karla Auker met with Hemisphere Corporation Inc., a developer interested in redeveloping the 1,100 acre Diamond Shamrock Corp. site in Painesville, Ohio. The meeting was a general information meeting designed to discuss the developer's plans for the site. The meeting was held at the site and a tour of the site was given.

Contacts: Brooke A. Furio (312-353-2513)
Karla Auker (440-250-1741)

Meeting, Hemisphere Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio

On April 30, 2002, Brooke Furio met with Hemisphere Corporation to discuss the potential redevelopment plans for a piece of property located at East 119 Street and Mayfield Road in Little Italy in Cleveland, Ohio. The meeting took place at the property. Hemisphere Corporation Inc. is considering borrowing U.S. EPA Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Funds (BCRLF) that are administered by the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD). ODOD received a 1.8 million dollar BCRLF grant from U.S. EPA last year that is to be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund. The money lent from this fund is to be used for cleanup of contaminated sites in Ohio. Hemisphere Corporation is considering redeveloping the property into multi-unit residential housing. The development would also include an improvement to the Rapid Transit Authorities's adjacent (RTA) transit stop and a parking garage for

commuters.

Contact: Brooke A. Furio (312-353-2513)

Meeting, The City of Fostoria, Ohio

On May 1, 2002, Brooke Furio and Karla Auker met with the Mayor of the City of Fostoria, Ohio. City representatives, and the City's environmental consultant discussed the Boneyard Property. The City of Fostoria is asking for assistance to address the unknown environmental conditions at the Boneyard Property located in the center of the town.

Contacts: Karla Auker (440-250-1741)
Brooke A. Furio (312-353-2513)

Meeting, Community Involvement, Tappan Property, Elyria, Ohio

On May 1, 2002, Brooke Furio attended a community involvement meeting hosted by the City of Elyria, Ohio, to update the public on the activities occurring at the Former Tappan Facility property in Elyria. The city gave a brief project update, which was followed by a technical presentation given by the city's environmental consultant. The presentation focused primarily on the continued site assessment activities that are currently ongoing. The city has almost completely expended their \$200,000 U.S. EPA Brownfields Site Assessment Demonstration Pilot Grant. The city plans on expending the remainder of the funds on the preparation of the Voluntary Action Program Phase II Preliminary Report. This Phase II Preliminary Report should be completed by mid-Summer. The city plans on using the information in this report to apply for a cleanup grant from the State of Ohio's new Assistance Fund.

The last two community involvement meetings have not been very well attended. The city is considering using other methods of informing the community of any future activities at the Former Tappan Facility property. Representatives of the Ohio EPA's Northeast District Office were in attendance.

Contact: Brooke A. Furio (312-353-2513)

Meeting, Schmidt's Brewery Cleanup, Cuyahoga County

On May 2, 2002, Brooke Furio and Karla Auker met with Cuyahoga County to discuss the status of the future cleanup at the Schmidt's Brewery property. Cuyahoga County will be using \$315,000 from their U.S. EPA Brownfields Cleanup and Revolving

Loan Fund (BCRLF) program to pay for a portion of the cleanup at the property. To date cleanup has not commenced and most likely will not begin until this Fall. Oversight of the cleanup of the property will take place in the context of the State of Ohio's new Voluntary Action Program's VAP-MOA Track. The property will be developed into a state-of-the-art new Juvenile Detention Center. Several representatives from the County and representatives of the Ohio EPA's Northeast District Office were in attendance.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

Meeting, Saint Paul Port Authority, St. Paul, Minnesota

On May 7, 2002, Brooke Furio met with the St. Paul Minnesota's Port Authority to discuss the current status the Westminster Junction industrial park development project. The St. Paul Port Authority has used approximately \$250,000 of U.S. EPA Brownfields Site Assessment Demonstration Pilot Grant funds to conduct the site assessment activities necessary to take the six properties that make up the future industrial park through the State of Minnesota's Voluntary Investigation Cleanup Program. The Westminster Junction Industrial Park is one redevelopment, of a larger redevelopment project known as the Phalen Corridor Initiative. To date the St. Paul Port Authority, working with many other local Government Agencies and non-profit groups have leveraged over 300 million dollars for the entire redevelopment of the Phalen Corridor on St. Paul's East Side. Cleanup and redevelopment of the properties assessed by the St. Paul Port Authority with U.S. EPA Brownfields Site Assessment Demonstration Pilot Grant funds is expected to begin this Summer.

Contact: Brooke A. Furio (312-353-2513)

Meeting, New Brownfields Legislation, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

On May 8, 2002, Brooke Furio gave a formal presentation to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) on the new Brownfields Legislation that was signed into law this past January. Representatives from the State's Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Superfund, and Agriculture programs were in attendance. Also, members of other State Agencies including Department of Trade and Economic Development were in attendance. Finally, representatives of local governments from the Twin Cities Metropolitan area were in attendance.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

Outreach, New Brownfields Legislation, Indiana and Wisconsin

On April 17, 2002, Deborah Orr provided an overview of the new Brownfields legislation to communities and others at the Indiana Brownfields Taskforce meeting in Indianapolis. Representatives from communities across Indiana including Indianapolis, Hammond and Tell City attended. Commissioner Laurie Kaplan and State Representative Beverly Gard also attended the meeting. Deborah Orr also provided information on the new Brownfields legislation to communities, Housing and Urban Development staff and others at the Wisconsin Environmental Assessment Workshop in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There were 12 communities, 2 counties and State of Wisconsin officials attending the workshop. Each group was provided an opportunity to ask questions and provide comment on the new brownfields legislation.

Contact: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)

Meeting, Chicago Brownfields Coalition Advisory, South Suburban

On May 9, 2002, Deborah Orr, Clayton Koher and Ann Wentz attended the quarterly advisory committee meeting in East Hazel Crest. Tim Brown with Chicagoland REDI/Delta Institute discussed the Brownfields Prevention Program that the pilot is developing. Subcommittees on Marketing, Dissemination of Information and Redevelopment gave updates on actions. Lansing, Riverdale, Chicago Heights and South Chicago Heights announced that they had each received \$120,000 in the latest round of State of Illinois funding. Posen, a recent addition to the group, has also submitted an application for State funding.

Contacts: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)
Clayton Koher(312-886-6086)
Ann Wentz (312-886-8097)

All Cities Conference, State of Illinois, LaSalle, Illinois

On April 9-10, 2002, Joseph Dufficy, Deborah Orr and Donna Braden, Brownfields Early Action Section, participated in the Illinois EPA Brownfields Conference, held near LaSalle, Illinois. The 174 participants included representatives from 55 Illinois communities, 4 counties, 2 Federal agencies in addition to U.S. EPA, 20 contractors and 4 Illinois State Agencies. Deborah Orr provided an overview on the new Brownfields legislation and Joe Dufficy participated in the

plenary discussion on the critical issues facing brownfields cleanup and redevelopment efforts. There was extensive interaction with the participants with questions and comments in both sessions.

Contacts: Donna Braden (312-353-7712)
Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)
Joseph Dufficy (312-886-1960)

Meeting, Continuity of Operations Plan, Bloomingdale, Illinois

On May 7, 2002, the Office of Administration and Resources Management held a meeting for all of the Regions to discuss various aspects of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). Richard Karl, Emergency Response Branch Chief, Ann Whelan and Sheila Calovich attended this meeting to provide the program view point for the discussions of the COOP. Topics covered were communications, fly-away kits, alternate locations, exercises and training, and lessons learned from the World Trade Center response. Lee Anne Thorne from Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness at Headquarters presented an overview of the COOP process.

Contacts: Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)
Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)
Richard Karl (312-353-9295)

Presentation, Alpha Cast Foundry, Palmyra, Wisconsin

On May 6, 2002, Ginny Narsete, U.S. EPA Public Affairs Specialist, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Charles Gebien, and Robert Thibodeaux, PhD, Toxicologist, Wisconsin Department of Health (WDOH), gave a short presentation at the Palmyra Council meeting to update the local officials and the general public on the removal action at the Alpha Cast Foundry site in Palmyra, Wisconsin. Approximately fifty citizens attended the meeting, asked questions, and were concerned about well water and redevelopment of the site property. U.S. EPA sampled private wells and wetland areas adjacent to the site and will provide the analytical results to the affected residents, the Village of Palmyra and the WDOH. WDOH will prepare a health consultation. U.S. EPA is removing drummed wastes and other foundry wastes contaminated with chlorinated solvents and other volatile organic compounds. A good news story appeared in the local newspaper, the Enterprise, informing the residents of the ongoing cleanup. The cleanup completion should be done in early June, pending final sampling results and disposal of contaminated drums and soil.

Contacts: Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)

Charles Gebien (312-353-7645)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
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